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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/306,854	05/07/1999	SANDRA PSIK	22750/402	4062

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EXAMINER

CHIN, RANDALL E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/306,854

Applicant(s)

PSIK ET AL.

Examiner

Randall Chin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12, 13, 16 and 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-11 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the conical guideway must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims 2 and 18. **No new matter should be entered.**

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Great Britain 200,733 (hereinafter GB '733).

GB '733 discloses with respect to claims 1 and 3 a floor-mopping device, comprising a handle D having a longitudinal axis, a supporting body (only the flat disc portion of flange E shown in the Figure) E to which the handle is connected, at least one flexible mopping element F suspended from the supporting body in pendulum fashion, and means for suppressing (only the tubular portion of flange E shown in the Figure) canting of the supporting body relative to the handle. GB '733 does recite in col.1, lines

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39-46 that the flange portion E could be "fixed square with handle D" or "arranged to swivel on the mop handle when the mop is in use". It should be noted that the two vertical prongs of element B fit into the two slots underneath flange E (not explicitly labeled) thus causing mop to swivel. It is the position of the Examiner that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the GB '733 device such that the swiveling flange E is "fixed square" with the handle (as opposed to be at an angle as the Figure shows) such that the supporting flange is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the handle in order to more easily access hard-to-reach areas when cleaning furniture, for example. The "means for suppressing" is columnar as set forth in claim 2 and as shown in the Figure. Applicant's specification on p.3, lines 12-16 recites that the "means for suppressing" could merely be a sleeve into which the cylindrical shaft of a handle is inserted.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 14 is allowed.

Applicant is respectfully requested to review and clarify non-elected dependent claims 12, 13, 16 and 17 for compliance with 35USC112, second paragraph and for mere clarity.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's arguments filed August 25, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that in Drescher, the "face" of the flange E is screwed to the mop handle, thereby preventing the flange from rotation. It is further argued that the complete flange E does not swivel on the mop handle. The Examiner respectfully submits that Drescher recites in col. 1, lines 40-46 that the face of the flange E can be "arranged to swivel on the mop handle when the mop is in use". Clearly, Drescher is not teaching or suggesting that the entire (i.e., the columnar portion with the screw set therein shown in the figure) flange E can swivel but merely the face (disc portion shown in the figure) of this flange E. Clearly, the entire flange E could not swivel due to the screw arrangement. Applicant further argues that even if this "face" or flange could swivel that the flange E would fall off the mop handle rendering the device unstable. It is respectfully submitted that this is merely speculative on the part of Applicant. Drescher is still deemed to teach a "pendulum" fashioned hanging.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randall Chin whose telephone number is (703) 308-1613. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Warden can be reached on (703) 308-2920. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



R. Chin
September 4, 2003



Randall Chin
Primary Examiner
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